Inventor: H. Malak et al.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently amended) A method of <u>plasmon-induced</u> multiband optical sensing or molecular identification comprising <u>steps of</u>: providing a composition capable of characteristic multiband spectral absorption or multiband spectral emission, the composition comprising a molecule and a <u>plasmon-excited</u> nanoparticle, <u>wherein</u> the molecule is located within plasmon fields of the nanoparticle and the molecule <u>has a plasmon-induced multiband spectral property nearby the molecule</u>; allowing a sample containing an analyte to interact with the compositions; <u>exciting the composition by a plasmon source</u>; and monitoring the <u>multiband</u> spectral absorption or <u>multiband</u> spectral emission of <u>the molecule for</u> each interaction between the composition and the analyte of the sample.
- 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the molecule is an organic molecule, an inorganic molecule, a biomolecule or a microbe.
- 3. Cancelled
- 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the analyte is selected from the group consisting of glucose, inorganic molecule, organic molecule, protein, amino acid, oligonucleotide, lipid, sugar moiety, purine or pyrimidine, nucleoside or nucleotide.
- 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprising a spacer placed between the molecule and the nanoparticle and the spacer is selected from the group consisting of: a biorecognitive spacer, a dielectric spacer, a chemical link spacer, an analyte sensitive spacer or a polymer spacer.

Inventor: H. Malak et al.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nanoparticle is made of a conducting material a super-conducting material or a semi-conducting material a material with an electric property selected from the group of: conductor, super-conductor, semiconductor or dielectric.

7.-12. Cancelled

- 13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is placed in a microarray, a bio-chip, a flow cell, an endoscope, a microscopic slide, a total internal reflection cell, a catheter, an optical fiber, a waveguide, a body, food, soil, water or air.
- 14. Cancelled
- 15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method <u>further</u> comprises analyses of a low excited state or higher excited states of absorption bands or fluorescence bands of the molecule.

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring of the multiband absorption and/or the multiband emission of the molecule is performed by at least one of the selected techniques: absorption, fluorescence, time-resolved, polarization, energy transfer, hyperspectral imaging, Raman scattering, microscopy or microscopy imaging.

18-19. Cancelled

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the spacer modifies multiband emission, multiband absorption, or multiband fluorescence lifetime the plasmon-induced multiband spectral property of the molecule.

Inventor: H. Malak et al.

Listing of Claims:

1. A method of plasmon-induced multiband optical sensing or molecular identification comprising steps of: providing a composition capable of characteristic multiband spectral absorption or multiband spectral emission, the composition comprising a molecule and a plasmon-excited nanoparticle, wherein the molecule is located within plasmon fields of the nanoparticle and the molecule has a plasmon-induced multiband spectral property; allowing a sample containing an analyte to interact with the compositions; and monitoring the multiband spectral absorption or multiband spectral emission of the molecule for each interaction between the composition and the analyte of the sample.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the molecule is an organic molecule, an inorganic molecule, a biomolecule or a microbe.
- 3. Cancelled
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the analyte is selected from the group consisting of glucose, inorganic molecule, organic molecule, protein, amino acid, oligonucleotide, lipid, sugar moiety, purine or pyrimidine, nucleoside or nucleotide.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprising a spacer placed between the molecule and the nanoparticle and the spacer is selected from the group consisting of: a biorecognitive spacer, a dielectric spacer, a chemical link spacer, an analyte sensitive spacer or a polymer spacer.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the nanoparticle is made of a material with an electric property selected from the group of: conductor, super-conductor, semiconductor or dielectric.

7.-12. Cancelled

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is placed in a microarray, a bio-

Serial No. 10/656,629

Inventor: H. Malak et al.

chip, a flow cell, an endoscope, a microscopic slide, a total internal reflection cell, a catheter, an optical fiber, a waveguide, a body, food, soil, water or air.

- 14. Cancelled
- 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises analyses of a low excited state or higher excited states of absorption bands or fluorescence bands of the molecule.
- 16. Cancelled
- 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring of the multiband absorption and/or the multiband emission of the molecule is performed by at least one of the selected techniques: absorption, fluorescence, time-resolved, polarization, energy transfer, hyperspectral imaging, Raman scattering, microscopy or microscopy imaging.
- 18.-19. Cancelled
- 20. The method of claim 5, wherein the spacer modifies the plasmon-induced multiband spectral property of the molecule.